

**Online & Hybrid Learning:
Toward Defining Best Practices in Legal Education**
September 30 – October 2, 2021
University of Denver, Sturm College of Law

Building on the overwhelming success of the 2019 conference, the Online & Hybrid Learning Conference returns in 2021.

So much has changed, but so much is still the same... The COVID-19 crisis proved a powerful accelerant of the trends that were identified at the 2019 conference, and much has been learned in the process. This conference seeks to bring together research derived from the Emergency Remote Teaching phase (Mid-March to June, 2020) and the more measured and planned Academic Year 2020-21, and use the data to identify emerging best practices.

Distance education and other modern learning tools are at work in legal education and have now been applied across a broad sampling of schools. Outcomes-oriented design, integrated formative and summative assessment, online simulations, asynchronous learning, and other hallmarks of distance education have demonstrated efficacy in law teaching for 20 years (though a robust empirical research agenda has yet to develop). The interesting questions continue to center around *how* and *where* these modern learning tools and disciplines can be used to *best* advantage in the law school curriculum.

Expertise now abounds among the academy, and this conference aims to collect and share it. Bringing together leaders of legal education and law school innovation, “Online & Hybrid Learning Pedagogy: Toward Defining Best Practices in Legal Education” nurtures the emerging consensus on best practices in a new era of change and challenge in legal education.

For faculty looking to engage distracted students, there’s no better place to come and learn. For deans and administrators considering online learning offerings at their schools, and who are looking to encourage stronger academic performance and better outcomes for a new generation of law students, the tools discussed at this conference will help to improve evaluation and development of student capacities. For the practice minded, experts on classroom and hybrid online applications will critically examine questions of balance, when live classrooms work best, and where teaching is better done in a hybrid or fully online learning environment.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

Deadline for Proposals: Monday, March 22, 2021

The Program Committee is seeking proposals for presentations at the conference. There will be several invited keynotes, but the rest of the conference will be proposal based.

The available time slots are generally set up in 30 and 75-minute increments, and there are many topics that would fit into our conference theme. Below is a list of some suggested topics, which is by no means exhaustive, but illustrative of the kind of topics appropriate for this conference. Please note that co-presenters and groups are welcome. In addition, as part of your proposal, please identify how your material(s) might be shared with the group.

- Evidence-Based Pedagogy in Online or Hybrid Teaching Environments (research assessing effectiveness of pedagogical approaches, using assessment data collected via learning management systems)
- Pedagogy in Practice (in depth critique and problem solving on specific online and hybrid course applications)
- Instructional Design – What We’ve Learned by Working with ID
- Achieving Professional Identity Formation Outcomes via Online and Hybrid Teaching
- Using Assessment Data in Evolving Online and Hybrid Teaching Environments
- Making our Hybrid and Online learning Environments Inclusive and Supportive of all Students
- Which Parts Go Where: Design Thinking Applied to Hybrid Legal Education
- Micro-credentials and Stacking of Credentials - Developing Program Outcomes
- Permeability of the Bricks and Mortar Building; Beyond Traditional Thinking
- What Student Can Tell Us -- Now

Suggested Formats for Presentations

- 15-minute speed rounds (two to a time slot)
- 25-minute presentations (single, co-presenter, or group) (one to a time slot)
- 75-minute discussions (panel discussion, with time reserved for Q&A)

If you are Interested in Presenting

Please send us a one- to two-page proposal with the following information:

1. Your name, professional title and school.
2. Contact information, e-mail address, and telephone number.
3. Number of years teaching in a law school (we will consider applications with all levels of experience).
4. Title of your presentation – what topic title would fit on a bumper sticker?
5. One paragraph description of your presentation, about 300 words.
6. Technology needs beyond the basics. All rooms have computers with internet, and projection and audio capabilities.
7. Whether the presentation is lecture style or, preferably, interactive.
8. Preferred length and whether you would be willing to adapt the presentation for a different length or format (e.g., presenting in a speed round or forming a panel with others presenting on the same topic).
9. While most presenters will be chosen to present on only one topic, please submit as many proposals as you would like considered.

Please send proposals to David Thomson, John C. Dwan Professor for Online Learning, University of Denver, 2255 E. Evans Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80208 (David.Thomson@du.edu). Please send in Microsoft Word or the equivalent.

We will let those who submit proposals know by April 30th whether their proposals have been accepted. The specifics of the conference schedule (format, time, etc.) will be distributed (and posted) in late May. We currently plan for an in-person conference, as before, but are watching – as we all are – the Covid daily news. We will announce a decision by July 15 as to whether the conference will be in-person, fully online, or a hybrid.

Thank you,

The Conference Program Committee:

- David Thomson (University of Denver, <https://www.law.du.edu/about/people/david-thomson>)
- Greg Brandes (St. Francis School of Law, <https://stfrancislaw.com/faculty/greg-brandes/>)
- Sara Berman (AccessLex, <https://www.accesslex.org/> and <https://www.linkedin.com/in/SJBerman>)